Course Objective

Computing and information technology is ubiquitous. Its use has brought out a wide range of societal issues, including privacy, security, liability, intellectual ownership, professional ethics. The use of such technology has also given rise to a host of new social trends. The course gives a comprehensive overview of such social implications and it is intended to give the student a deeper understanding of the societal complexities of the use of information technology.

ABET Outcomes

- **Outcome F**: Communicate effectively with a range of audiences.
- **Outcome G**: Understand the professional, ethical, legal, and security impacts of computing on individuals, organizations, and society.

Topics

1. History of Computing
   a. Anthropological root of computing
   b. Evolution of Computing Hardware
   c. Contemporary trends
2. Privacy
   a. Legislation
   b. Practical consideration around privacy
   c. Privacy vs. Security
3. Freedom of Speech
   a. Legislation, U.S. and abroad
   b. Limitations and threats to free speech
4. Intellectual Property
   a. U.S. Copyright laws, The Fair Use Doctrine
   b. International protections of intellectual property
   c. Intellectual property and software
5. Open Source Movements
   a. Open software licenses
   b. Free Software Foundation, GNU
   c. Open software and profitability
6. Cybercrime
   a. Review of existing legislation
   b. Hacking
   c. Types of Cybercrime
7. The Work Place
   a. Impact of Information Technology to the work place
b. Information Technology Careers

8. Errors, Failures and Risks
   a. Impact of IT system failures
   b. Managing risks

9. Evaluating and Controlling Technology
   a. Modern day luddites
   b. Criticisms of computing technologies
   c. Impacts of AI

10. Professional Ethics
    a. Review of ethics codes of professional organizations
    b. Discussion of individual ethical mandates

Professor

Dr. Wolfgang Bein
Phone: (702) 895-1477
Internet: wolfgang.bein@unlv.edu, http://www.egr.unlv.edu/~bein/ Office: TBE B 381
Office Hours: Friday 3:20pm - 4:20 pm, or by appointment.
            Wednesday (Dara Nyknahad): 12pm – 1 pm in Lab TBE B 346.

Course Page

http://www.egr.unlv.edu/~bein/teaching/society/

Textbook


Assignments

Each student will write an essay and give a short presentation in class. (Counts for 50% of the grade).

Procedure: Student will be notified of topics available and will be assigned a due date.

Examinations

Midterm: Friday, August 4 (Counts for 20% of the grade).

Final Exam: Friday, August 11 (covers all material, counts for 30% of the grade)

There are no make-up tests. Exam dates are subject to change.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. A class role may be taken in class. Insufficient attendance can result in a lower grade (including the grade of ”F”) for the course.
Academic Misconduct—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct.

Copyright—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, http://drc.unlv.edu/, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excluding modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information: https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency.

Incomplete Grades—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching—The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit http://www.unlv.edu/asc or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/

Rebelmail—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.